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Letters

BORN AGAIN

DEAR EDITOR:

What a thrill to see such a deserving cover girl on the *Weekly*: the heroic Connie Norman ["Born To Act Up," March 29–April 4]. And thanks to Douglas Sadownick for his heartfelt portrait, which immortalizes a deservedly blessed creature.

—*Michael Kearns*
Los Angeles

CHURLED HUNKS

DEAR EDITOR:

Robbie Conal's review of "The San Francisco School of Abstract Expressionism" show at the Laguna Art Museum ["Hurled Chunks," April 5–11] ranks with the most unprofessional "art criticism" I have read in years.

Conal's article is utterly lacking in the obtuse description, self-absorption and long, adjective-loaded, reference-laden, dense prose fiber recommended by professionals for any serious art critical diet. I mean, it was intelligent, insightful and — most outrageous — actually funny. Clearly, the guy has had little training in how to really write about art. Your subversion of the status quo in printing this sets a dangerous precedent.

I certainly hope you don't start thinking about paying Conal for this comprehensible head candy. It goes down way, way too easy and, sooner or later, someone could get hooked.

—*William Turner*
William Turner Gallery
Venice

GET IT?

DEAR EDITOR:

Re: the photo from the movie *Frisk* that ran in your Calendar section ["New Releases," March 29–April 4]. Two words: disgusting and hypocrisy. The first regarding the film *Frisk*'s image of a person spitting into the open mouth of another person. The latter regarding the *Weekly* for publishing the image next to these words: "*Frisk* labors hard to shock; it's one of those films that wants to be sordid and depraved, but if anyone actually calls it that, they're prudes or too stupid to 'get it.' There's nothing to get."

Maybe I'm a prude, or maybe I'm stupid, but I definitely don't get the *Weekly* anymore.

—*Keith Ray Putman*
Los Angeles

PLAYING BALL

DEAR EDITOR:

If, as Richard Meltzer states in his haphazard article "Baseball Unplugged" [April 5–11], he "used to like baseball," what gives him the right to slag a sport that he admits to "never watching"?

I would think a cutting-edge publication such as the *L.A. Weekly* might think twice about including an article by someone as out of touch and apathetic as this old windbag geezer whose "current great love" is sumo (now there's a thinking man's sport). Commission him to write a piece on the nuances of 15-second sumo matches, where one really fat guy pushes the other really fat guy out of a circle.

I suppose it's the total blind disregard for baseball by this outdated, purposefully uninformed naysayer that irks me. I mean, I could sit around and say Portland, Oregon (Meltzer's home), used to be nice in the good ol' days but now is nothing more than a two-bit, socially depressed village of wannabes who skulk around in a rain-soaked, rusted-iron shithole.

I know Meltzer "unplugged" (another meager attempt at hipness) from baseball in the '70s and ignorantly believes that baseball has "taken a nosedive" since then. But for your empty resin sack of information, attendance has grown in leaps and bounds and set all-time attendance records in the '80s and '90s.

I hold deep respect for my elders who are knowledgeable, open-minded, respectful individuals, but for you, Richard Meltzer, you jaded, old, unamusing fart still living in the '40s who would rather "eat a cleat" than enjoy baseball nowadays, well, eat my cleats.

—*Milo Martin*
Los Feliz

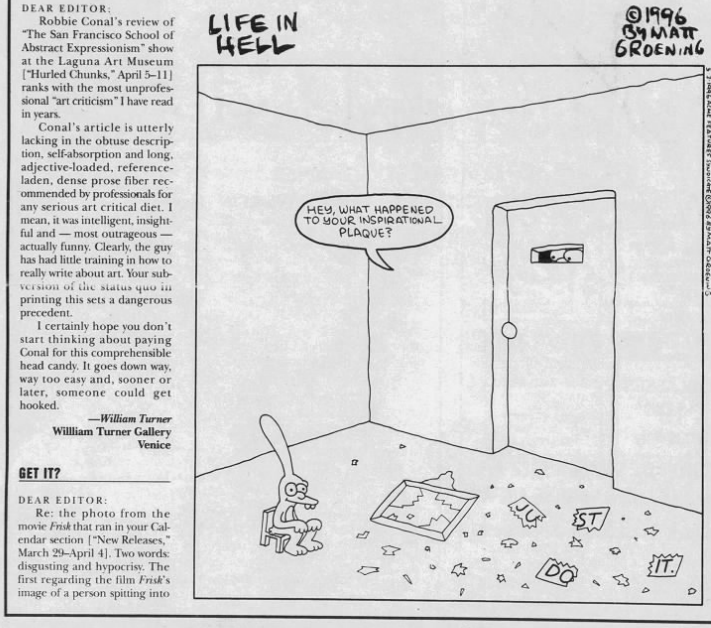
DEAR EDITOR:

Last year it was Greg Burk. This year it was Donnell Alexander. Can't the *L.A. Weekly* find someone who can write about baseball as a *sport*?

—*Don Gundy*
Burbank

CORRECTION

In "House of Cards," a cover story on the Bicycle Club in Bell Gardens, the *Weekly* reported that a gaming promoter known as Sammy B had "skimmed millions from the now-closed Bell Casino." In fact, Sammy B, a.k.a. Wing Lou, was charged with felony grand theft in connection with $160,000 allegedly diverted from casino revenues. Lou's attorney, Johnnie Cochran, argued that his client had no intent to "permanently steal" the money and characterized the matter as a "dispute among businessmen." Nine months later, charges were dismissed "due to new evidence," according to court documents.



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